

REMARKS

Applicant would like to thank Examiners Ali and Lu for the telephone interview held May 24, 2005. In that interview, a proposed new independent claim (currently numbered Claim 33) and certain dependent claims were discussed. Examiner Ali made two suggestions which in his opinion would put the claims in condition for allowance. The first suggestion was that the preamble for Claim 33 should read "a computer implemented method" rather than simply "A method." Second, Examiner Ali suggested that Applicant base the associated ranking criteria on "discrete ranking levels." Applicant has agreed to make the proposed change and delete the proposed new claim 32. Consequently, Applicant has canceled Claims 1-32 and submitted new Claims 33-44 to clarify this aspect of the invention and place the case in condition for allowance. Examiners Ali and Lu agreed that these amendments place the case in condition for allowance. In order to have these new claims entered and be considered, Applicant is submitting a Request for Continued Examination with this paper.

The Final Office Action rejected Claims 1-2, 13-14, 17-18, and 29-32 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,094,648 to Aalbersberg (hereinafter "Aalbersberg"). The Examiner rejected Claims 3, 15, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Aalbersberg and U.S. Patent No. 5,675,819 to Schuetze (hereinafter "Schuetze"). The Examiner rejected Claims 12 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Aalbersberg and U.S. Patent No. 6,014,664 to Fagin (hereinafter "Fagin"). The Examiner rejected Claims 4-7, 16, 20-23, 25, and the various multiple dependent combinations under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Aalbersberg, Schuetze, and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0156763 to Marchisio (hereinafter "Marchisio").

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-32 have been canceled. New Claims 33-44 have been added.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-2, 13-14, 17-18, AND 29-32 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 13-14, 17-18, and 29-32 under 35 USC §102(e) in view of Aalbersberg. Applicant has submitted new Claims 33-44. As discussed in the recent

telephone interview, new Claims 33-44 retrieve context information, present the context information with rank criteria to a user, and re-rank previously ranked documents using a context ranking formula based on user preferences for the ranking criteria which are based on discrete ranking levels and the absolute ranking value. See Claim 33. As agreed in the interview, these aspects are not taught or suggested by Aalbersberg or any of the art of record. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that new Claims 33-44 are allowable over the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 3-7, 12, 15, 16, 19, 20-23, 25, and 28 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 3-7, 12, 15, 16, 19, 20-23, 25, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Aalbersberg, Schuetze, Marchisio, and Fagin. As explained above, new Claims 33-44 clarify features that are not taught or suggested by Aalbersberg, Schuetze, Marchisio, or Fagin. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that new Claims 33-44 are allowable over the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

CONCLUSION

In view of the agreement reached in the telephone interview and the fact that the art of record fails to teach or suggest retrieving context information, presenting the context information with rank criteria to a user, and/or re-ranking previously ranked documents using user preferences for the rank criteria and a context ranking formula based on the absolute ranking value, Applicant respectfully submits that the new claims are in condition for allowance. In the event any questions or issues remain that can be resolved with a phone call, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initiate a telephone conference with the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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